

Remarks

Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-19, 30 and 31 are currently pending. Claims 30 and 31 were indicated as allowed in the November 29, 2006 Office Action. However, that Office Action rejected the other pending claims. In view of the amendment above, and the remarks below, consideration of further amended claims 1-3, 5-8 and 10-19 is respectfully requested.

Previously Allowed Subject Matter

Claims 30 and 31 were indicated to be allowed. Since they have not been amended by this response, they should remain allowed.

Art Rejections

1. The art rejections of claims 1-3, 5-8 and 10-19 have now all been restated. They now all rely on Girardot et al., U.S. patent 6,406,206.

Girardot et al. has as a primary goal providing a compact and thin packet capable of being discretely transported by a consumer. For example, a consumer who might be embarrassed about carrying around an antiperspirant canister is now able to keep a packet in a shirt pocket until needed. This teaching of the importance of making the packet highly compact and able to be discretely transported is a teaching away from combining this reference with a large electrical cleaning device (which cannot be discretely transported).

In any event, Girardot et al. also stresses the importance of removing the peel-off layer so that the perforations in the packet are exposed to the skin of the consumer. This is another teaching away. In particular, it teaches away from placing the packet in a position of use where after the peel-off cover is removed the perforations are still "covered" (in this case by the cleaning pad). This distinction is more clearly stressed by the above clarifying amendment.

2. These distinctions relevant to Girardot et al. alone should be sufficient to overcome the art rejections of claims 1-3, 5-8 and 10-19. However, the "triangular" limitation further supports allowance of the claims.

The Office Action acknowledges the absence of relevant triangular teachings in the cited references. Nevertheless, it seeks to avoid giving patentable weight to the limitation by arguing that a triangular shape has no advantage relative to a

rectangular one. Applicants respectfully traverse the Office Action's assertion that a rectangular pad would function equally well as compared to a triangular pad.

The issue is not whether for some functions that might be the case (e.g. along the middle of a wall). Rather, the weight to be given to the distinction turns on whether for some functions the advantage exists (e.g. corner cleaning).

Further, the issue is not whether the advantage exists in the absence of a reciprocating device. Here, Fig. 1 shows a triangle pointed forwardly and the description indicates reciprocation forward to back. That creates a jabbing motion which helps pick out dirt from corners.

With the prior art rectangular pad, the front wall is moved forward and back. This can actually jam more dirt into the corners. For example, when the device is parallel to one wall near a corner it pushes dirt against the transverse wall. Then, when the device is parallel to the transverse wall it can jam dirt into the corner.

Hence, there is an advantage to the present design's triangular limitation, contrary to the Office Action's finding. This further supports the unobvious nature of claim 1 and claims dependent on claim 1.

3. It is also noted that the Office Action did not address the issue of the unobvious nature of combining a generally triangular cleaning attachment with a packet shape in the context of a hook-and-loop type attachment system used with high speed reciprocation. As the triangle narrows, it leaves less and less frame area available for the cleaning attachment to contact at the very area at the front which receives the greatest shear forces during cleaning.

Conclusion

Accordingly, claims 1-3, 5-8 and 10-19 as further amended by virtue of the amendment to claim 1, and claims 30-31 as previously allowed, are believed to be in allowable form. Confirmation of allowance of these claims is therefore respectfully requested.

No additional fees are believed necessary for consideration of this response. However, should any additional fees nevertheless be needed for full consideration of this amendment, please charge any fees believed necessary in connection with this response to Deposit Account No. 10-0849 .

Respectfully submitted,

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